

3rd March, 2025

Mr. Pat Buckley, T.D.,
Dáil Éireann,
Dublin 2.

PQ ref 5821/25

"To ask the Minister for Health for an update on staff shortages in the Cork east public health nurse network; if vacant positions have been filled; if a full service is now available in all parts of Cork east; and if not, the areas which remain impacted; and if she will make a statement on the matter".

Dear Deputy Buckley,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The Public Health Nursing Service provides clinical care, following a clinical needs assessment to clients/patients including:

- Child health development;
- Children with complex medical needs;
- Older persons;
- Young chronically sick; and
- Palliative care patients.

The table below outlines the Public Health Nurses in East Cork:

Area	DED	PHN	RGN
1	Rostellen, Inch, Corkbeg	1	
2	Templeboden, Lisgoold, Templecarrigna Part of Midleton urban	1 - vacant due to long term sick leave. PHN area 12 cross covering child health	RGN caseload manager covering curative calls
3	Youghal part urban part rural	0.5 - vacant due to maternity leave	RGN covering curative calls
4	Killeagh, Kilmacdonagh, Clonprist	1	
5& 14	Cloyne/Ballintemple/ Ballycoptton	1	1
6	Youghal Urban, Killeagh	1	
7&8	Youghal urban and Rural part of	1	
9&10	Midleton Urban	1	1
11	Castlemartyr/ Ightermuragh/Garryvoe/Shanagarry	1	

There is currently 1 WTE Public Health Nurse vacancy in Midleton due to statutory leave and 0.5 WTE vacant in Youghal Health Centre due to maternity leave. The Public Health team in Midleton and Youghal are endeavouring to continue to provide developmental screening to all children residing in the Midleton and Youghal catchment. However due to the current vacancies, there are some delays of 4-6 weeks in appointments being issued. All children will be offered appointments for developmental screening.

The Senior Leadership Team, as part of the post prioritisation process have approved a number of Public Health Nursing vacancies across Cork and Kerry and these have been sent forward for filling as part of the national Public Health Nursing recruitment campaign.

If I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mari O'Donovan
Interim Head of Service - Primary Care,
HSE South West